

In the Specification:

Page 3, line 13, please insert the following paragraph.

Q1 --As used herein, the term "self-gripping legs" refers to legs that, by themselves, grip and maintain a hold on a base sufficient to support implements such as surgical instruments in an upright manner.--

Page 7, lines, 7-8, please replace the brief description of Figure 3 with the following paragraph.

Q2 --Figure 3 is a perspective view of the instrument organizer of Figure 2 disposed on a planar support and, in turn, supporting surgical instruments in an upright position, with the movable stabilizing post secured to the organizer and providing support to the instruments;--

Page 9, line 22 through page 10, line 8, please replace that paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph.

Q3 --The movable stabilizing post 100, therefore, is fit on the base 112 of the organizer 110 so that the opposing, inwardly facing surfaces 106, 108 of the gripping legs 102, 104 of the movable stabilizing post 100 may solely grip the front and rear surfaces 111, 113 of the base, whereby the movable stabilizing post can be attached to the base of the organizer at any point between the fixed

Q3
Cont'd

end posts 114, 116 and be retained in place at that point by the gripping legs. Preferably, a length "l" of the gripping legs 102, 104 is either not greater than or is equal to a height "h" of the base 112 of the organizer 110 so that a bottom surface 105 of the post 103 of the moveable stabilizing post 100 contacts a top surface 115 of the base 112 to provide additional stability. Preferably, as illustrated, the movable stabilizing post is formed from a blank of material such that the post 103 includes exterior surfaces which are generally planar and integral with corresponding exterior surfaces of the gripping legs 102, 104.--

↓
Page 10, lines 9-16, please replace that paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph.

Q4

--As shown in Figure 3, the movable stabilizing post 100 can be positioned on the base 112 of the organizer 110 which is, in turn, disposed on a planar support surface 119. Use of the movable stabilizing post 100, insures that surgical instruments 200, 201, 202 will be maintained in an upright position between the movable stabilizing post and one of the fixed end posts 116 of the organizer. The movable stabilizing post 100 prevents instruments, partially supported on the organizer 110 and partially supported on planar support surface 119, from toppling over from their upright positions and becoming mixed and disorganized. The improved organization and accessibility provided by the organizer/stabilizing post find particular utility before and during a surgical procedure, and/or in preparation for sterilization.--

✓
Page 10, lines 17-23, please replace that paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph.

CB
--Preferably, the organizer 110 and the movable stabilizing post 100 are both made of a non-woven, non-absorbent, lint-free material. The organizer 110 and the movable stabilizing post 100 are preferably made of a lint-free foam plastic which is, as illustrated and described below, insufficiently rigid to partially support surgical instruments 200, 201, 202 absent a planar support surface. In addition, it is envisioned that the organizer 110 and the movable stabilizing post 100 can be provided in a sterile state. Preferably the organizer 110 and the movable stabilizing post 100 are composed of a non-reticulated polyurethane foam having the physical properties provided in TABLE 1.--

Page 11, lines 4-9 (below TABLE 1), please replace that paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph.

CB
--Referring in particular to Figure 2, the organizer 110 can also be provided with a double-sided adhesive strip 118 on a bottom surface of the base 112 of the organizer. The adhesive strip 118 allows the organizer 110 to be secured to a planar support surface 119, such as a tray or table top for example, to hold the organizer in place and further prevent surgical instruments supported